

Message Text

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GENEVA FOR CCD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, UNGA

SUBJECT: SSOD: RESPONSE TO UNSYG ON MILITARY EXPENDITURE
REPORTING

1. MISSION REQUESTED TO PASS FOLLOWING TO UNSYG. BEGIN
TEXT. THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS PRESENTS HIS COMPLIMENTS
TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND HAS
THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S NOTE
PO (112(6)) OF JANUARY 4, 1978.

2. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN ITS REPLY TO
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THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE
1976 EXPERTS GROUP REPORT ON THE REDUCTION OF MILITARY
BUDGETS EXPRESSED ITS SUPPORT FOR FURTHER OPERATIONAL
TESTING AND REFINEMENT OF THE REPORTING INSTRUMENT BY
MEANS OF A FIELD TRIAL OR PILOT TEST AND NOTED THE
IMPORTANCE OF PARTICIPATION BY COUNTRIES WHICH REPRESENT
THE MAIN TYPES OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEMS AND WHICH

HAVE LARGE MILITARY EXPENDITURES.

3. THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION 32/85, A PILOT TEST OR FIELD TRIAL OF THE REPORTING INSTRUMENT SHOULD NOW BE UNDERTAKEN. THE UNITED STATES IS WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN A FIELD TRIAL, EXPENDITURE DATA, AND TO ASSIST ACTIVELY THE EFFORT TO

DEVELOP A DETAILED, STANDARDIZED AND COMPARABLE MECHANISM FOR REPORTING MILITARY EXPENDITURES IN ORDER TO MAKE IT MORE WIDELY APPLICABLE AND USEFUL. THE UNITED STATES WOULD EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSE AND REPRESENTATIVE PARTICIPATION IN A FIELD TRIAL BY STATES FROM DIFFERENT REGIONS AND WITH DIFFERENT ECONOMIC SYSTEMS.

4. INCREASINGLY WIDESPREAD REPORTING OF MILITARY EXPENDITURES WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BUILDING OF CONFIDENCE AMONG COUNTRIES AND TO THE POSSIBILITY OF EFFECTIVE MILITARY EXPENDITURE LIMITATION AGREEMENTS. MILITARY EXPENDITURE LIMITATION AGREEMENTS HOLD THE PROMISE OF RELEASING RESOURCES FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT EVERYWHERE, AND WE EXPECT THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD SHARE IN THESE BENEFITS. THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZES THAT SUCH AGREEMENTS WILL BE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE AND ARE NOT A NEAR TERM PROSPECT
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BUT REGARDS THEM AS OBJECTIVES WORTHY TO BE PURSUED.

5. THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AVAILS HIMSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS THE ASSURANCE OF HIS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END TEXT. VANCE

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